SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST KINSHIP INTERNATIONAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH BALANCE
AUGUST 1982 - MARCH 1983

TOTAL CASH BALANCE AS OF AUGUST 1, 1982		$ 4,591.49
CASH RECEIPTS:		
Advertising	$ 60.00	
Book Orders	47.23	
Campus Outreach Project	15.00	
Donations (With Appl.)	120.00	
Donations (General)	4,502.54	
H & B Pamphlet, Reprinting	750.00	
H & B Pamphlet, Sales	153.75	
Kampmeeting (Clergy)	756.32	
Kampmeeting (Fees)	4,314.00	
Kampmeeting (General)	40.00	
National Newsletter	1,603.17	
Office Equipment Rental	468.00	
Pastor Informational Packet	624.68	
Region 4: Great Lakes	76.00	
Region 8: Central Pacific	43.00	
Region 9: Pacific Southwest	916.32	
Telephone	532.98	
Travel	225.00	
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS		$ 15,247.99
CASH DISBURSEMENTS:		
Advertising	$ 98.00	
Bank Service Charges	205.73	
Book Orders	80.84	
H & B Pamphlet Reprinting	847.00	
Kampmeeting '82 (Clergy)	935.50	
Kampmeeting '82 (Fees)	5,530.00	
Kampmeeting '82 (General)	661.02	
Miscellaneous	113.59	
National Newsletter	4,312.25	
Office Equipment Rental	463.82	
Office Supplies	447.12	
Pastor Informational Packet	270.00	
Postage	527.90	
Printing/Copying	128.64	
Public Relations	70.65	
Region 4: Great Lakes	25.00	
Region 9: Pacific Southwest	751.43	
Telephone	629.02	
Travel	225.00	
TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS		$ 16,322.51
TOTAL CASH BALANCE AS OF APRIL 1, 1983		$ 3,516.97

SDA KINSHIP KAMPMEETING '83 in PENNSYLVANIA August 7-14, 1983

Application Form

NAME(S) _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE # _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

Accommodations are available in rooms for three, four, and eight to a room. Please state first and second choices:

1st _____

2nd _____

(Those who pay first will be given priority.)

State choice of roommate—each person should indicate the other.

COST: Full seven days, including three meals a day: $200.00

I have enclosed: ☐ $200.00 for full payment
☐ $ 50.00 minimum non-refundable deposit per person
☐ $ 35.00 per day for 1-2 days
☐ $ 30.00 per day for 3-6 days
☐ $_____ tax-deductible donation; I will not be able to attend

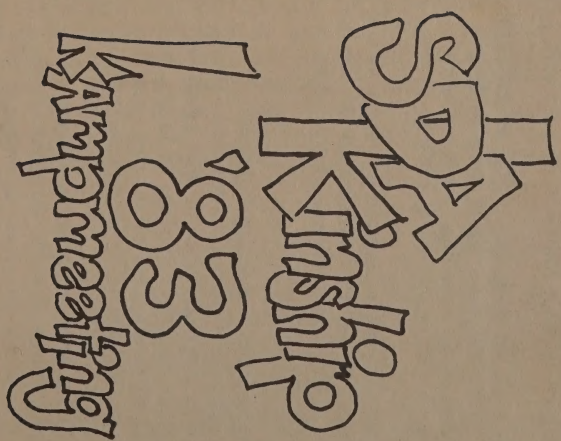
If you will be attending for less than a full week, state below what day and time of day you will arrive and leave.

Interest Poll: Please check the appropriate boxes if you are interested in visiting: ☐ **Washington, D.C.,** ☐ **Philadelphia,** and/or ☐ **New York City,** ☐ before and/or ☐ after Kampmeeting '83.

Please make all checks or money orders payable to: **SDA Kinship,** and send your application, payment and any inquiries to:

Kampmeeting '83 Coordinator
SDA Kinship
P.O. Box 1233
Los Angeles, CA 90028

AUGUST 7 – 14
In Pennsylvania



...in August of 1980, the Arizona desert witnessed the birth of the summer meetings of gay SDA Kinship members and SDA clergy. Talks, meetings, communions, prayers, tears, smiles, and laughter were all a part of that momentous occasion.

August of 1981 found Kinship in the calm hills of the Russian River area of Northern California, sharing, listening, and praying with the growing Kinship family.

August of 1982 brought together men and women from almost every walk of life to share a week with others of the same and different faiths.

Kampmeeting '83 brings together Pennsylvania-Dutch Country and SDA Kinship, International. It will again be the place to pray, to sing, to laugh, to share, to strengthen each other, and to grow during the time spent together.

Patterned after traditional Adventist campmeetings, Kinship Kampmeetings are a time for reunions, a time for

acquiring new friendships, a season for spiritual growth.

Join the discussions on practical Christianity, and on relationships. Hear updates on the religious gay movement. Listen to Old Testament and New Testament talks. Fellowship with gay and non-gay Christians as you provide and receive important support and understanding. Join in the fun in the pool, or walk the trails. Sit and talk while soaking in the sun.

Bring your loved one, parents, brothers, sisters and friends. This is a summer experience not to be missed!

Kampmeeting at Fellowship Farm in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, provides the rural setting of the early pioneers...reminding one of the campmeeting settings of yore.

Everyone will find the main lodge and quaint houses to be a wonderful reminder of "camp" when we were younger. The Main Lodge, with accomodations of two, three, four, and eight-to-a-room, and the outer house, with four-to-a-room (linens supplied), will be the place to place our tired but fulfilled bodies. Home-cooked vegetarian meals and the home-made bread will be a treat for each, three times a day.

Summers in the East tend to be very warm, but if we are very lucky this year, we will have a wonderful hot and dry summer. So come ready with your swimsuit. To anticipate a cool evening, bring a light jacket. For evening use, bring your flashlight.

For more information concerning SDA Kinship Kampmeeting '83, write to the address on the application.

* * *

Please turn the page →

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April 21, 1983

Tal'or Bar-Shank
Juli Beatty
John Hose
Ronald Johnson
Carolyn Mobley
Bob Wheatly

Dear members of the LGIA Coordinating Committee:

Me thinks it is time for us to get together. There certainly is much to do before our fall congress. To that end, committee members Tal'or Bar-Shank, Ron Johnson and I met with Bill Johnson a few weeks ago to take a few necessary preliminary steps toward a meeting.

Tal'or contacted the LGIA organizational task force (see enclosed). Ron wrote to someone on the Ad-Hoc Planning Committee (a copy of the letter to follow). I endeavored to get copies of the minutes of our November meeting (2 of the 3 days enclosed--the other day's minutes will follow when I receive it).

The next step, we thought, would be for our committee to get together. Since we are spread out over the East Coast, with the three of us in New York City, Bob Wheatly in Boston, Juli Beatty in Pennsylvania, and Carolyn Mobley and John Hose in Georgia, we are suggesting that we meet in New York City of the May 20-22 weekend. Is that possible? We will provide or find housing and food for everyone. As time is of the essence at this point, I would ask you to call Tal'or Bar-Shank at (212) 777-3957 or Ron Johnson at (212) 675-0913 with your response immediately on receipt of this. Is it possible for your groups to fund your transportation costs? We realize that for the New York City members to suggest that we meet in New York may be a bit self-serving, but it does seem to be one of the practical solutions to our problems of geography. Let us know.

Looking forward to seeing you soon and hearing from you even sooner.

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert Bouchard
LGIA coordinating committee member

cc: Bill Johnson, 100 N. Oxford, Frank Scheuren

SDA KINSHIP Connection

NEWSLETTER of Seventh-day Adventist Gays and Lesbians and Their Friends Vol. 6 No. 6 June, 1983
SDA Kinship International, Inc., P.O. Box 1233, Los Angeles, CA 90028-1233, Phone (213) 876-2076

KAMPMEETING '83 --A PREVIEW--

Obed Vasquez

Some details of Kampmeeting '83 have taken final shape while others continue in the making as August approaches. The schedule of meetings and activities has been planned so as to instruct, inform, and uplift everyone present. The ultimate of details can be gotten only if you come and attend, but I will give you a preview of what is in store.

The week begins with your arrival Sunday afternoon, August 7th. Some time will be available for you to settle in, organize, and acquaint yourself with the surroundings. A welcome get together meeting is scheduled Sunday evening to give all present an opportunity to meet and share.

Early in the week we will hear and converse with Barbara Gittings. The discussion will cover a history of the gay movement to the present. Barbara has been and is very involved with current gay pursuits across the country. Presently, among her many

To **KAMPMEETING** p. 4

THE REWARDS OF COMMITMENT, COMMUNITY, AND DISCIPLINE*

Ruth Kean

Commitment is absolutely necessary for people to "belong" to anything. A person may say, "I don't feel that I belong." That's understandable, if the person hasn't made a commitment.

For the Christian, Jesus has given the prime example of commitment. "I gladly died for you. I will be with you. My commitment to you is total." The response we make--what we in our SDA Kinship community commit, as a Christian group--is based on Christ's example of loving and giving.

Commitments all too easily exist at a level far above where we live our everyday lives. Two safeguards can help prevent this unhealthy separation.

*The author is indebted to a 1980 sermon by Gordon Cosby "Commitment and Discipline," for much of the material in this article. Gordon Cosby is pastor of the internationally-known Church of the Saviour in Washington, D.C.

Discipline Isn't All Bad

The first safeguard against separation of commitment from life is to couple the commitment with a *discipline*. Admittedly, discipline isn't a favorite concept, especially with religionists just escaping from the cramped gloom of legalism into the warmth and freedom of grace. However, there is no necessary contradiction between grace and discipline.

A commitment is usually general and lofty, while the corresponding discipline(s) will be specific. To illustrate: a commitment could be something like "Because I believe

Please turn to **COMMUNITY**--
p. 8 (The Centerfold)

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*Committee Chair

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, Inc. is a worldwide support group of/for Gay and Lesbian Adventists (former or current) and their friends. Kinship also provides gentle education of SDA pastors, teachers, and counselors to an understanding of homosexuality and related issues.

The SDA Kinship Newsletter, an informational and inspirational journal for our membership and friends, is published monthly by SDA Kinship International, Inc. Copy deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. All typewritten submissions will be thoughtfully considered, and, if not published, will be returned only if submitted with a self-addressed stamped envelope. **Include a first and last name, actual or pseudonym, that may be published.** Letters and essays may be edited for purposes of clarity or space. Send all potential copy to: J. Vicki Shelton, P.O. Box 10032, Denver, Colorado 80210. Phone: (303) 781-6230.

The appearance of names or photographs of persons or organizations should not be construed as any indication of the affectional preference of the named or shown. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of SDA Kinship International, Inc., or the Newsletter staff.

Changes of address or requests for newsletter copies should be sent to our International Headquarters at P.O. Box 1233, LA, CA 90028-1233, USA. Our mailing list is confidential among officers and staff, and is not sold, rented, or exchanged for any purpose.

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From the President's Residence

Last month in this space, I emphasized the importance of getting involved in some worthwhile cause. The recent board meeting provided many examples of just that:

*Larry Hallock, our PR director, needed someone to coordinate getting SDA Kinship listed in gay publications so one of our newer members in Pennsylvania volunteered.

*Vicki Shelton, our newsletter editor, needed someone to compile a column of general news of the gay movement. One of the Southern California members at the meeting took on the duty.

*Recently, members have volunteered to write a news release on Kampmeeting, coordinate a speakers' bureau, put up posters and cards, help write a brochure, contact church and college groups, write a letter to the editor, draft bylaws, lend a listening ear, conduct a yard sale, advertise a Kinship stop-smoking clinic, help stuff envelopes with newsletters, take pictures at a Kinship function, and host a meeting, among others. Our Kampmeeting Coordinator, finance committee members and Kinship Kontact editors are all non-elected volunteers who have taken on sizable amounts of responsibility. An organization such as Kinship could not thrive without such people.

The last board meeting also provided an exciting example of the entire group rallying to fill a particular need: As at every board meeting, finances were a major topic. A current project--the clergy packet--was fully planned and needed only the necessary funding to go into production. Also, the newsletter needed some immediate cash to publish. After describing the need, we passed the hat among the board and general members in attendance. It was exhilirating to see that the 18 or so not-rich members in attendance willingly dug even deeper to help us past this most immediate crisis.

It has always been true that what gets done depends on people doing the work. Lately, we have been getting quite a bit done. Many thanks for those who have volunteered.

Vicki's Voice

At the recent board meetings someone asked why it seemed our organization is trying to get the Church to accept us. People in and out of Kinship have questioned whether this wouldn't be a waste of time and energy. This question is especially appropriate now as SDA Kinship begins the expensive task of sending information packets to 100's of Adventist pastors. Let me share some of my thoughts.

Above all, we are here to provide support and fellowship among Adventist gay men and women. Then what must Kinship do to give the support we promise to Adventist gays? Aren't we providing support when we ask the Church to study homosexuality more carefully? Although pastors may mean well, in ignorance disasterous advice is still given out, stereotypes are still believed, and some people are still sent away from their counsel with no help at all or perhaps with intensified hurt and guilt. Ironically, the very things we need to do for understanding and compassion are the same things we would need to do if we wished solely for acceptance and validation. Either way, we need to "inform." Particularly, we need to inform pastors--the ones with the power to either help or hurt gay people in the Church.

I believe people misunderstand SDA Kinship when they see us as simply out to get the Church to change its doctrine or validate the gay lifestyle. Better treatment is what we are after. Our goal is understanding, compassion, and the recognition that things are not so cut and dried as was once thought. We hope for a more open-minded approach to the study of our issue and, as a result, more thoughtful counseling.

Acceptance and approval by the Church? That would be nice. Better treatment of gay people within the Church? That's a must. And if we become accepted somewhere along the road to better treatment, that's fine.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK
An Inside Look

Nildo Harper

New York, New York, the city of cities. A fabulous town with nonstop activities to stimulate even the most jaded palate. The sights include the usual as well as the unusual. The Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, the Village, Wall Street, and the Historical District, are some of the old "must do" activities. The unusual include the Museum of Holography (only one of its kind in the world), the ever-changing art exhibits in the Soho Galleries, with its avant-garde; striking, interesting, punk, and new wave people; Franklin Delano Roosevelt's birthplace; and the fabulous collections at the museums (the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Art Museum, the Cooper-Hewitt extension of the Smithsonian, which is currently exhibiting over 600 faberge eggs). On a nice day a Circle Line Tour around the island of Manhattan is also quite enjoyable.

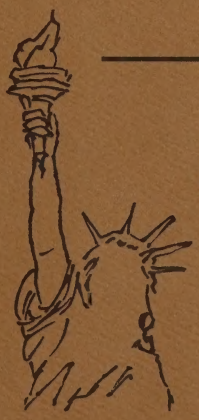
For the gay visitor, New York provides a never-ending parade of interesting and exciting sights. Currently, on the Great White Way is the first entirely gay, spectacularly funny, quasi-autobiographical three-act play outlining the life of a former drag queen. The play takes place during three different periods in his life, culminating with a visit from his mother with the inevitable generational and lifestyle confrontation. This play has been universally acclaimed as one of the best shows on Broadway. Your "gay" tour should also include a promenade down Christopher Street, with its interesting shops, restaurants, and, of course, all of the interesting people to watch (one of the best features of this city).

Eating in New York is also a pleasure. With one of the world's largest concentrations and diversity of restaurants and cafes, and with exotic cuisines representing Afghani to Zulu, there are restaurants from almost every culture and ethnic group in the world. New Yorkers have little time to cook at home--it is estimated that more than half eat out at least 3-4 times a week.

Getting around is fairly simple, even to the uninitiated. Taxis and buses are everywhere. The subways, even with their terrible reputation, are quick and should not be missed. Riding them is an "ethnic" experience.

The New York City chapter of Kinship is a happy and enjoyable group, and its members love to take visitors on "personalized" tours of the town. With the upcoming camp-meeting in Pennsylvania, you should fly into New York, taking advantage of the cheaper fares, and plan to spend a few unforgettable days visiting the Big Apple.

* * *



NEW YORK THIS SUMMER!

READ ABOUT IT ON THIS VERY PAGE

FIRST SDA KINSHIP CHURCH SERVICE

Dean Whitten

Region 9's first formal worship service, a very emotional experience, was held in Riverside on May 21, and was attended by approximately 30 Kinship members and guests. Services were held in the historic Universalist-Unitarian Church. Bernie Ochoa presented the message, "Acceptance," and special music was presented by Kinship's musical group, Promises.

Future services are being planned, and attendance and participation by supportive pastors is being considered.

"Many of us have been told we are unwelcome in Church. Today we found a true place of worship, fellowship, and spirit," said Dennis Grau, Region 9 Director.

Following the service a pot-luck was held at Helena and Marge's home.

* * *

KAMPMEETING, from p. 1

activities, Barbara is the Coordinator for the Gay Task Force in the American Library Association (Social Responsibilities Round Table). She has extensive background addressing large and small, religious and secular, gay and non-gay groups, and has received numerous awards for her work in the gay movement.

The day continues with a workshop reviewing the medical scene. This workshop, presented by Richard Hamilton, M.D., who has worked with and for the gay community in northern California, is of pivotal importance in light of the medical crisis that the gay community is presently facing. Readers of the **SDA Kinship Connection**'s, "Our Dr. Says" column are already familiar with Dr. Hamilton's informative and very helpful articles, and will now have an opportunity to cover other questions still needing to be asked and answered.

Between workshops and seminars we plan to take breaks to enjoy a picnic lunch, a hike, and other group recreational activities. Remember those things you hated but were made to participate in when at summer camp? Well, this time you will participate because you want to. And you will love it! You've come a long way and deserve every moment of joy.

We continue our week's program with a seminar by a leader of Dignity, an organization of Catholic gays. Frank Scheuren, President of Dignity, will lead out in discussion covering interdenominational/secular involvement and share some background on Dignity and its involvements and commitments.

Hearing about gay rights from the top of some high podium at a large rally will be contrasted with an informative workshop on Daily Living the gay way. All areas of our lives are intricately involved with legalities that can either help or hurt us in one way or another. This workshop is intended to cover our civil rights and other related topics.

Several seminars will be led by scholars from our SDA institutions. Their topics will cover Old Testament and New Testament views on homosexuality. The scholars' study and research of homosexuality and the Bible will be shared and discussed. Questions can be brought up and discussed with them in the meetings or individually. Remember not to be shy, quiet, or bashful. This is your campmeeting!

An aspect which makes us what we are--humans, wonderful people--is the psychological complexity of which we are made. The fascinating topic of psychological aspects of homosexuality will be the subject of a midweek workshop.

Continuing the study of human behavior, thoughts on gay relationships--how they work or don't--will bring together those everyday aspects of life. You will have an opportunity to share your thoughts on the needs, the heartbreaks, and the reunions of gay relationships.

Those who attended Kampmeeting '82 will remember one unforgetable speaker in Marsha Langford, President of Integrity (an Episcopal Ministry). Marsha brought with her, her enthusiasm, her wisdom, life's experiences, and a challenge. An energetic and inspiring person, Marsha will again join us for a seminar you will not soon forget!

With annual elections, games of volleyball, seminars, swim parties, video programs, hikes, late-night talks, communion, and Sabbath worship, what more can we have? Well, there still is the planned Barn Fest toward the end of the week where we can whoop and holler with our brothers and sisters in the faith. So be there. This will be a week to be remembered!

* * *

Resolve to be thyself: and know,
that he
Who finds himself, loses his
misery.

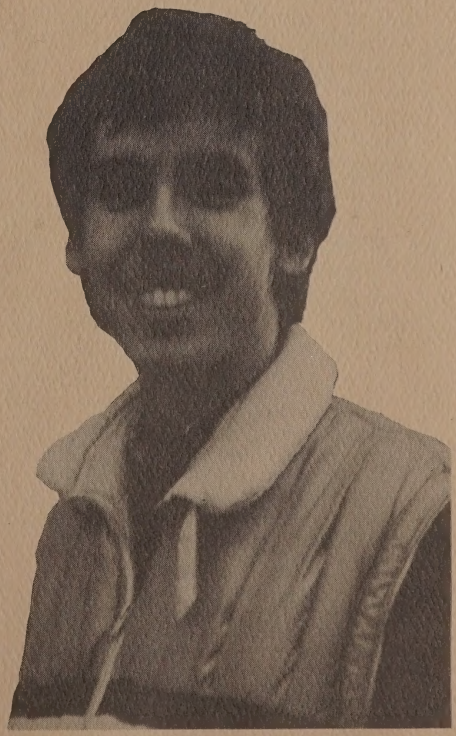
--Matthew Arnold

ARTHUR AND STEVE

A FEW FACES FROM REGIONS 1 AND 2

CHARLIE, [illegible], BOB, MYKE, STEVE, OBED AND NILDO (KNEELING)

GARRY, DENNIS, MYKE & STEVE



STEVE

Vocal Point

In Response to the "Alcohol Resolution"

It is with real regret and sadness that I read that the SDA Kinship board has chosen to respond like the Church and start excluding some good members by defining what their conduct must be. Of course, I'm referring to the new rule that alcohol cannot be served at SDA Kinship meetings. The explanation that preceded the rule is reasonable and a good statement of what SDA Kinship should be. Then, inappropriately and out of context, the rule is announced. I too could be offended at the behavior of some SDA Kinship members at organization meetings, but I have not sought to restrict. For instance, I was appalled when SDA Kinship organized a group to view the Rose Parade on the Sabbath. Should we take formal positions to ban what could be a growing list of practices and also establish monitoring devices? Can I next be asked not to serve coffee, Pepsi, and so forth at meetings? Will I need to be certain that nothing of secular nature comes into a Sabbath SDA Kinship meeting? Of all groups that should be tolerant, SDA Kinship is now beginning to show intolerance. Is not the only sane approach to accept the idea that we are each responsible for our own behavior, and reject that old SDA nonsense that we are responsible for another's conduct?

The most vocal of our anti-alcohol group complains that some might be led to drink when they are trying not to. Any person who has seriously delt with his or her alcohol problem will tell you that it is up to each person to say no to alcohol and learn to avoid its use. We are not responsible for the decision another person makes. This is the basis of personal responsibility and obligation to my fellow man.

I've noticed that some say that others might be repulsed by the presence of alcohol at a SDA Kinship meeting. What a perfect opportunity to make a statement of tolerance and acceptance of all individuals. Acceptance and tolerance is the Quaker philosophy. Can we not learn from their leadership in this area? What about those of us who now feel that we are being driven away by these repressive attitudes? My relationship with SDA Kinship has been one of love, warmth, and great need. But I am sad and depressed for our vision when we begin on the road of regulating what is best for us and what is required for comfortable inclusion in our membership.

I left a church that I found so repressive that I could no longer function there. Is SDA Kinship now beginning on a similar road that ultimately may turn many away? I sincerely believe that the board is in error and should withdraw this inappropriate rule.

Dale Hardin, ACSW
Region 6 Director

* * *

The SDA Kinship family is unique and diverse. We are fat and we are thin. We are women and we are men. We vary in age from --- to ---. We are current SDA's with real membership in the Church. We are the disfellowshiped--and in between. We are former non-practicing SDA's and interested members who have no present

STEVE AND MYKE OF REGION 2

affiliation with any church, and we are the friends who love the fun, joy, and kinship with our fantastic organization. We are liberals and conservatives. We reach out and love all people who find and join us whether their church has been or is the "bar scene," the baths, the college campus church, or the local Church in hundreds of communities throughout the world. We are so unique that the SDA Church lacks courage to accept and love us.

You get a group of us together and we talk for hours on end about the pain we have or have had. We pour out our hearts to each other and lend support, advice, a shoulder to cry on. We love and care and help each other through the most difficult of problems and fears. We share our prayers and tears over telephones, in letters as well as in groups. We share our joys as well. Each potluck, dinner, picnic, retreat, church service, Kamp-meeting, campout, or ski trip is a joyous "happening."

If you put our minds together we have the equivalent of a conference president, college president, right on through every position of importance in the SDA Church. Talent... My, we are blessed!

Given all our diversity, uniqueness, love, support, and caring and the minds we have, why is it not possible for everyone to accept everyone else as did Jesus Christ? Could it be that a few of us are not yet Christians?

On page three of the May, 1983, **Kinship Connection** is the marvelous Rene' Descartes quote, "It is not enough to have a good mind. The main thing is to use it well."

The point--ahh...the point is. The wording of the board action on alcohol use should perhaps read and be that "...alcohol abuse may be deleterious to health." Period.

In Christian love,

Virginia Reynolds

* * *

The resolution and explanation to which the above readers refer appears below, reprinted from the last issue of the ***SDA Kinship Connection.*** *The resolution was passed unanimously, save one abstention, at the recent board meeting.*

--JVS

Resolution on Alcohol Use: Kinship has been compared to a mission to recover the survivors of a shipwreck. When a person is pulled out of the icy water, he or she cannot immediately start talking about the painful experience. The person simply needs to rest awhile.

Kinship has always welcomed *everyone* who seeks a haven and, therefore, we have always been a diverse group with a wide range of Christian experience. We exist to soothe survivors, not to barrage them with demands. We turn no one away for lacking an interest in the SDA Church anymore. No one is rejected for no longer subscribing to the highest SDA Christian standards.

On the other hand, our group does bear the name *"Seventh-day Adventist* Kinship." With such a diverse membership, it has not always been easy to know just exactly how to be the Christian organization we say we are, and at the same time be certain that *all* persons feel welcome, including those whose lifestyles differ greatly from what the Church itself would demand.

The board pondered this dilemma at length as it discussed the use of alcohol. It was noted with regret how easy it is for gay people, rejected by the Church, their families and society, to turn to alcohol. The board unanimously emphasized that no member should be judged or turned away because of alcohol use, but it was also felt that Kinship as an organization should clarify its stand on alcohol use. One important concern was that SDA Kinship should be of help to those who may be struggling to overcome alcoholism. At this time SDA Kinship does not have a formal program for alcoholics, but certainly it would be helpful to these folk, it was felt, if we maintained an atmosphere conducive to winning that struggle.

With all of these considerations thoroughly discussed, the board voted the following resolution:

"SDA Kinship feels that alcohol use is deleterious to health and behavior. Therefore alcohol use is discouraged and alcohol will not be served at any SDA Kinship functions"

* * *

Letters for publication in our Vocal Point column should be addressed to J.V. Shelton, P.O. Box 10032, Denver, CO 80210, and should include your name as you wish for publication. If you write but prefer your message to be unpublished, please so indicate.

From **COMMITMENT**, p. 1

Kinship is serving God through serving people, I commit myself to be a loyal member, contributing my time, money, and talents to accomplish the organization's ends." All very good, but very vague. *How much* time, money, or talent? That comes in the discipline, purely voluntary, which a person adopts to "put teeth into" his commitment. An example might be, "I will contribute $50 (or $5, or $500) to Kinship every month," or "I will offer to help in Kinship projects one day a month." This discipline is not legalistic, in the unsavory religious sense, if the person understands that salvation is by grace (a gift), but the work we want to accomplish gets done by the sweat of our brows.

"I'm struggling for financial accountability to God and Kinship. But it doesn't come easy. For the next three months, around the fifteenth of the month please ask me whether I've met my financial commitment that I voluntarily made to Kinship." I think you can see that this is quite different from the friend's nagging me about behavior that *she* has selected as being what I ought to do!

There is the option, then, of saying, "This is who I really am. Now, in this actual group of people, I will live this thing out, and I will ask them to hold me accountable for what I have chosen to do." The surrounding community plus these voluntarily-chosen discipline(s) help keep commitment real and productive.

Through this disciplined giving, our corporate vision is nourished and supported. Together we do and support what God has given us, together, to do. So we have dreamed it together, and the resources, then, flow in to enable us to do it together.

The Setting for Commitment: Community

The second safeguard against separating ideals from real life is living out one's commitment in a specific *community*. Blessed, and at least often happy, is the person who can be part of a specific structure, a small group of deeply-committed Christians. Besides fellowship and fun, a community can supply *accountability*. This is another term that tends to make people skittish. However, it isn't frightening when understood to be totally voluntary.

I may choose a member of the group and say to her,

The Community Isn't Perfect?

The Kinship community, we might as well admit, is made up of real, flesh-and-blood people. Yet it is possible to come to it, saying, "I have now decided to belong to this group. I will let my weight down...I will love this group... I will be excited about it." Everybody in the world is looking for roots. You need to belong, I need to belong, to a small group of people concerning whom we can enthusiastically say to other friends, "Come, explore to see whether this family might provide spiritual roots for you."

To join such a family is to say with joy, "This is really my people! I belong, now, to these people; they belong to me." We might add the words Gordon Cosby uses in speaking of the Church of the Saviour:

> And I just take it as it is. You cannot join a community in order to reform it. That doesn't work in human relations, and it doesn't work in a community. You take it as it is. And you willingly bring your own sins that you are conscious of into all of the corporate sinning that goes on in the group. You see, you just bring it, and you let the grace undergird it and overshadow it.
>
> And you know that you bring as much as you'll find there. Sometimes more, but don't brag about the more--that will destroy the community. But you bring just as much as you will find, and you'll find quite a lot. But this is the group that you've joined. And you say, "You know, I'm glad that at last I've found a group of people with enough sin in it for me to be comfortable in it."

I don't think that Gordon Cosby is saying, "Sinning's O.K." He is making a case for recognizing reality, for avoiding putting the community up onto a pedestal from which it must later come crashing down. This real, flesh-and-blood community we accept as it is, and begin to put our weight down.

The member becomes eager to interpret to strangers outside the group, who we are. As for members within the group, they take responsibility for each other, giving

support in many ways. Through just such fallible human beings, Jesus Christ chooses to give witness to His grace and truth.

But don't for a minute suppose that being community is *easy!* It is, actually, extremely difficult. Somone has said, "Community is a very wonderful and exciting thing--if you can stand it." At times the costs seem to dwarf the rewards. We find ourselves absorbed with patching bruised relationships, recovering from our own anger, differing almost irreconcilably with a brother or sister. "Am I getting enough out of this to make it worthwhile?" one wonders.

However, what we "get out of it" isn't the only consideration. A community can be held together by a sense of call (divine appointment). The wonderful and exciting satisfactions may come and go, while a sense of mission remains unshaken.

One Important Discipline

Only one specific discipline will be dealt with in this article; perhaps the reader will be stimulated to think of others. The one to be discussed is material resources.

Money can easily become the most demanding and consuming idol of all. On the other hand, proper giving can be an antidote for idolatry of possessions. Perhaps we should consider that the impulse, convenience giving that some of us do is quite different from systematic, proportionate giving. The person who pulls out $20, or even a $100, to put into the offering basket every few months may appear to be very, very generous. Yet that is not the same as giving weekly or monthly according to one's ability.

We need to give regularly, not periodically. Once more let me quote from Gordon Cosby's sermon: "The world's need is such that it needs to receive regularly. It cannot wait for that periodic gift." Cosby suggests that you make your disciplined contribution through

> somebody that rejoices your spirit--somebody that you believe in. For those of us who are part of this community, we will, of course, give it through this community. And thus our corporate vision is nourished and supported. Together we do and support what God has given us, together, to do. So we have dreamed it together, and the resources, then, flow in to enable us to do it together.
>
> Surely there will be no real freedom in Christ until we take joy in giving generously every pay period.

Of course there are similarities and differences between the Church of the Saviour and Kinship. Our organization is not a church. Nevertheless, we do have a spiritual mission. The vision of being able, through systematic, disciplined giving, to fund the projects we have dreamed of together and feel called to do, is inspiring!

Such generous giving will help the member to feel part of the community. Although there are exceptions, usually it is unhealthy for a person to draw from a people without feeding into that organization. Giving according to one's ability, whether that be $2 a month or $200, is one way of feeding into and nourishing the community from which one draws strength. Thus the individual is both receiving and giving, while the community receives to give again--both grow stronger together.

The Opportunity

This is an appeal, then, to the people who have been reading the **SDA Kinship Connection** to consider making a commitment to this organization, accompanied by discipline(s) of their own choosing.

This is an invitation to those who already are heavily committed to Kinship, to accept with joy the challenge of growing to greater maturity together: to consider it all worth while to work through potentially divisive issues as irritating as Paul's and Peter's differences over the "Judaizing" issue must have been to them. The reward can be finding ever richer experiences in Kinship. It's a place for loving, caring, growing. It isn't perfect. But it's a splendid place to live out commitment with discipline in community. And, because we've chosen it and committed to it--**this family is ours!**

* * *

A community can be held together by a sense of call. Satisfactions may come and go, while a sense of mission remains unshaken.

Our Dr. Says...

Once again, by the following article and by the enclosed flier, Dr. Hamilton responds to questions and interest expressed by our readers. Again, if others of you have a medical question, Dr. Hamilton will be pleased to answer them. Just address your inquiry to:

Dr. Richard Hamilton
2000 Van Ness Ave., Suite #206
San Francisco, CA 94109

COMMENTS ON AIDS

It is difficult to bring good news about AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) because nearly every development has implications for problems that our community must be aware of. The evidence for transmission is sketchy, especially concerning the household-exposure issue. This concern has been extremely exaggerated, and it needs modulation. The scientific community admits that transmission **may** be possible, but yet has to find the transmissible agent. Until such an agent is found and its characteristics defined, to shrink from or avoid being with our affected brothers and sisters in their time of need would be a failure to follow the teachings of Christ. There are many in an intimate relationship with an AIDS afflicted person who remain perfectly healthy.

Enclosed with this **Kinship Connection** is a statement created by a committee of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights. As a member of this committee, I emphasize that these guidelines are based on the **assumptions** that an infectious agent causes AIDS, and it behaves like the hepatitis-B virus. These risk-reduction guidelines are relevant to our knowledge of AIDS today and they may change as we learn more. The Committee to Halt the Advancement of Sexually Transmitted Epidemics (CHASED), a non-profit research and education organization, has made these guidelines available to you in the hope that you may remain healthy and happy.

* * *

Projects Needing Sponsors

If a certain project appeals to you, please mark your wish on the envelope that is provided.

Your support is still needed for the Information Packet. It is hoped that we will have it mailed out by mid-June.

Information on other needs can be obtained by calling Kinship.

[] **Information Packet**

Production:	$±1,000.00
Mailing:	
For each 100 cover letters	20.00
500 packets	425.00
100 packets	85.00
25 packets	21.25

[] **The Kinship Connection**

Cost per copy $ ±1.25

[] **Advocate Advertisement**

A listing for SDA Kinship is appearing in the Advocate and will cost according to the number of insertions in the publication.

This is how the ad reads:

> SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS. Gay is okay! SDA Kinship International, Inc., since 1976, is a support group of several hundred gay/lesbian Adventists, present and former. Ask for brochure. P.O. Box 1233-A, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (213) 876-2076.

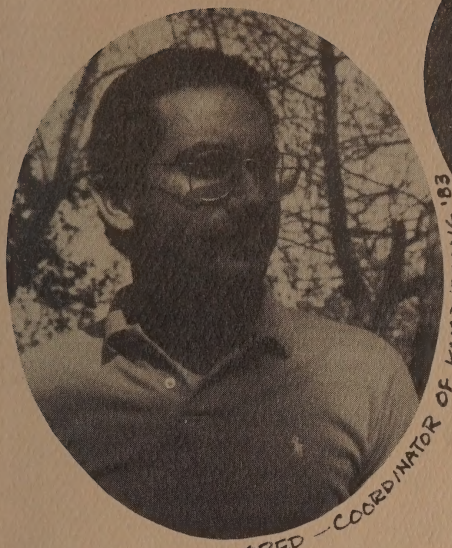
Cost is indicated according to number of insertions.

One insertion	$±57.00
Two insertions	114.00

If you see this as a project that should be continued, please consider sponsorship.

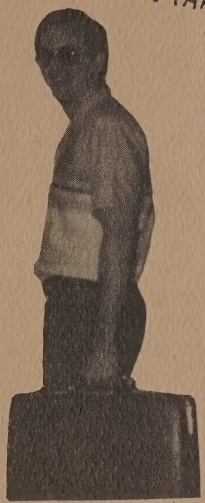
"I don't like it. It's against nature."

MARGE DOYLE, AN ACTIVE REGION 9 MEMBER

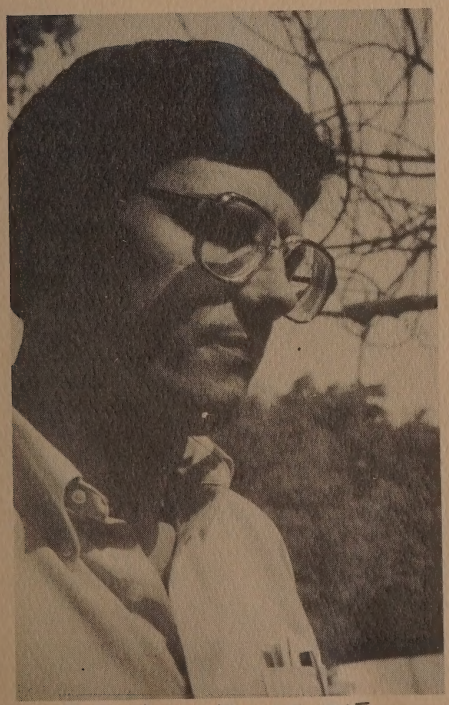


OBED — COORDINATOR OF KAMPMEETING '83

APRIL 1983
BOARD MEETINGS
IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



BILL McCURRY, DIRECTOR OF REGION 6



BOB HOLLAND OF THE SPEAKER'S BUREAU

JAIME NICHOLSON, BOB BOUCHARD

The following is an address prepared by Ron Lawson to give to a recent meeting of Adventist Biblical scholars.

--JVS

ADVENTIST HOMOSEXUALS, THE GENESIS OF KINSHIP, AND THE RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH

Ronald Lawson, Ph.D.,
SDA Church Liason,
SDA Kinship

Adventists as a denomination have had neither a theology of homosexuality nor a pastoral concern for their own children who turn out to be homosexuals. Misinformation and resorting to stereotyped images abound, and the concept that earnest gay Christians are active in Churches is foreign

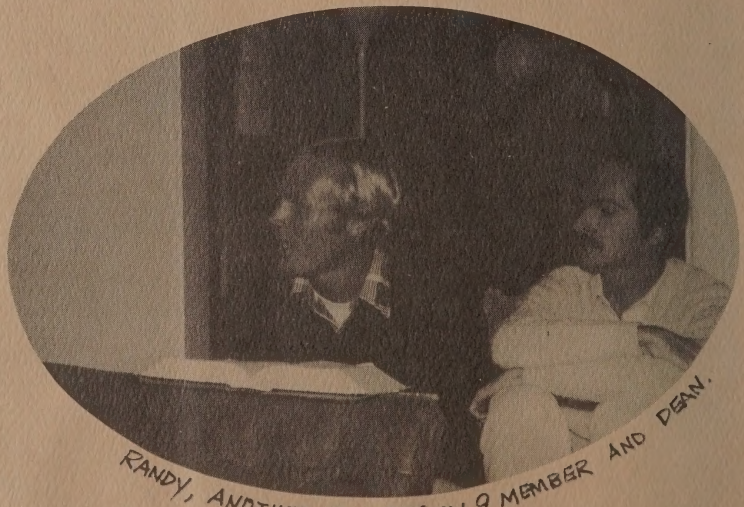
We homosexuals grow up in a hostile society. We discover as early as our school days that our kind are the butt of jokes and that to be suspected of being gay is to invite ridicule, isolation, and perhaps violence. The situation is even worse for those of us growing up as Adventists. Though the subject is usually ignored by our pastors, except perhaps for when it is cited as sure evidence that we are living in earth's last hour, we soon realize that our basic sexual feelings are regarded as evil. There is no one in the Church we can turn to to talk about these feelings and, sure we are each the only such Adventist in the world, we face the struggle to force ourselves to be straight alone. And struggle we do: we pray, we weep, we trust, we summon every effort of will--and all fails. God does not answer.

It is estimated that between 5% and 10% of the population is homosexual. It is my educated guess that the proportion is higher still among fundamentalist groups such as Adventists. Why? Freud would suggest that it is because so many of our mothers are very strong personalities. I am inclined to think that a legalistic system that tends to stifle affection is the more crucial factor.

What has happened to all these homosexual Adventists? Many have forced themselves into dry marriages, either harshly curbing their feelings or leading double lives--both of which options involve considerable cost to themselves, their spouses, and their Church. (Let me say parenthetically that there is strong scientific evidence that the most homophobic--that is, bitterly anti-gay--people are often reacting against or trying to disguise their gay feelings. I suspect that some of the most rigid Adventists fall into this category.) Others, probably the majority of homosexual Adventists, finding themselves faced with a terrible choice--either reject your feelings and do without love but be an Adventist, or be yourself, find love and exit the Church--have slipped away from the Church. Many have done so bitterly, exclaiming that if Christ's church is so rigid and unaccepting, they don't want such a Christ.

It is not unexpected, though sad, that theology often makes its breakthroughs only as it is forced to come to terms with practical problems. That is, theological insights emerge as the oppressed strive to find liberation.

The initial advances that began to include gays within Christ's kingdom came in other, more open, churches. Finally, several SDA's who found that they were both gay and Christian, and therefore realized that this was no contradiction



RANDY, ANOTHER NEW REGION 9 MEMBER AND DEAN.

in terms, independently put advertizements in gay papers saying something like, "Gay SDAs write to me." In this way we began to find one another. The next obvious step was the founding of SDA Kinship.

The goals of Kinship are to find and help one another; to work out what it is to be a gay Christian; and to help the Church understand so that tragedies--marriages without love, heartaches, suicides, seeing a rejecting Christ behind a rigid, uncaring system--such as these are reduced.

It is not unexpected, though sad, that theology often makes its breakthroughs only as it is forced to come to terms with practical problems.

In August 1980 Kinship held its first national "Kampmeeting" in Arizona, and we invited five Adventist scholars and pastors--Jim Cox, Larry Geraty, Fritz Guy, Jim Londis, and Josephine Benton. Since three of them were from Andrews University, they insisted that General Conference permission for their participation be sought. Neal Wilson and Duncan Eva proved to be sympathetic, and after a meeting at La Guardia airport between Eva, Cox, and me to answer some questions raised by PREXAD, all was approved on the condition that Colin Cook come also.

The scholars concluded, as a result of their pre-Kampmeeting study, that the Bible was silent about persons with a homosexual orientation, and the little that was said was directed to heterosexuals who might like to broaden their sexual repertoire. Its proscriptions were the same for homosexuals as heterosexuals: sexual exploitation, promiscuity, rape, and temple prostitution. They wept with us over the rejection we had felt in the church--for example, two of Kinship's leaders had just been disfellowshipped merely for letting their names appear on the Kinship mast-head--and prepared a list of nine recommendations concerning study, dissemination of information, crisis counselling and the role of Kinship for PREXAD. PREXAD was sympathetic, accepting seven of the nine recommendations (it rejected official recognition of a role for Kinship and the designating of official chaplains to Kinship). But these resolutions were then forgotten during post-Glacier View turmoil and buried under a flood of protests against "Adventist acceptance of homosexuality" from readers of The Layworker. Church leaders became more concerned with protecting their flanks from attacks from the far right than they were with love and justice. Nevertheless, we have continued to have couragious scholars and pastors participate as individuals and without publicity in our annual Kampmeetings. The spirit at these gatherings has been so magnificent that words could not describe it satisfactorally.

Church leaders became more concerned with protecting their flanks from attacks from the far right than they were with love and justice.

Every pastor who has attended Kampmeeting has commented that he/she never looked at what the Bible had to say about homosexuality while in college or seminary. That is, their opinions were based upon ignorance and the prejudices learned from Church and society. I wish to challenge you scholars to start treating this topic--consider what the Bible says and weigh the evidence of social science--for it is very relevant to the ministry of your students. And when you treat it, do not do so in a cold, rigid, merely intellectual manner--remember above all the pastoral dimension.

All relationships have been marred by the Fall. How many heterosexuals are ready for the "highest calling" of celebacy? When you see a gay Adventist, see him/her as someone for whom Christ died. And do not try to impose on us a standard that you could not live with yourself. It is my personal testimony that my life was transformed when I stopped fighting myself and allowed myself to love someone. I believe that that love came from God, for "all love is of God."

* * *

Bits and Pieces

Kinship Discussed In College Paper

Colin Cook recently gave a series of meetings at Atlantic Union College. During discussions he mentioned that the views of his Quest center differed considerably from SDA Kinship's. As a result of this mention, a reporter from the *AUC Lancastrian* called Ron Lawson with many questions.

According to Lawson, "The upshot of this conversation was a lengthy front page article which gave Kinship more coverage than it has received previously at AUC. Unfortunately, because of editorial queasiness, there was a failure to give Kinship's mailing address or phone number." Ron has attempted to right this in a follow-up letter to the editor. At this point we do not know if it has been published.

* * *

Kinship's Zip Code to Change July 1st

Please note that a new zip code for SDA Kinship's address goes into effect on July 1, 1983. The 90028 zip code will then become 90078. Thank you for making note of this change.

* * *

Comments on the New System for Reporting Regional Updates

J. Vicki Shelton

First, thank you for the large number of reports. We appreciate what you are doing in the various regions and benefit by hearing from you regularly.

Just a couple of suggestions to the reporters:

1) Try to limit your comments to something less than 100 words, so we may use just the next-to-the-last page for our updates. If your region has done or is planning an extra-special event, please feel free to submit a separate article to be used similarly to the article on page 3 about Region 9's first church service.

2) We must emphasize *how very important it is to have your updates on time*. Please try to plan enough in advance so that you can get your materials to Richard by his stated deadline. If you will *use the special forms* that Richard has sent you, that will be helpful as well.

Again, Kinship thanks you for all the work you are doing in your regions. Also, Richard, thank you for helping us make this very important section of the **Kinship Connection** so much better by your organization and follow-up communication with each regional director.

* * *

Kinship President Assumes Leadership Role in Interfaith Alliance

On May 22, 1983, Bob Bouchard, SDA Kinship's president, was selected to serve as the Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee for the Lesbian/Gay Interfaith Alliance (AGLIA).

Kinship can be pleased and proud to know that the many talents of our president are recognized and can be used by like organizations.

* * *

Here's What's Cooking

OATMEAL PATTIES

--Matt Buchannan

2 eggs beaten
1 cup quick oats
1 cup nuts ground or chopped fine
1/4 cup cream or evaporated milk
1 medium onion minced
1/4 - 1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp sage or to taste

Mix above ingredients well. Drop by the spoonful in a frying pan with a small amount of oil. Brown lightly on both sides. Place patties in a flat baking dish. Cover with tomato sauce or mushroom sauce and bake at 375° for 30 min. Will make approximately 6 patties. If using tomato sauce, sprinkle grated cheese on top before baking. Hint: a quick sauce can be made by combining a can of tomato soup or a can of mushroom soup with one can of water.

Looking Ahead

Many member-written articles used first, this time. **STOP** Sloane Coffin sermon, next time. **STOP.** Thanks for reading the **Kinship Connection. DON'T STOP!** Love, Vicki

Regional Updates

REGION 1--NORTH ATLANTIC

On April 22 Region 1's Director, Celeste Jarrett, and a representative from Dignity met with a large group of gay men. Each speaker related his or her organizations purposes and actiiv-ities. On May 2, Celeste gave a talk about Kinship to a gay youth group. An Adventist gay couple attended this meeting and now have information about Region 1. On May 16, Celeste will be talking to a gay group in Nashua about Kinship.

Region 1 will be joining Region 2 for the joint meeting on the weekend of June 17-19. See Region 2 update for more information about this weekend.

During the month of June, Celeste hopes to be in contact with each Region 1 member to ask assistance in placing Kinship cards in Gay estab-lishments. For more information, contact Celeste at (603) 524-1422.

REGION 2--SOUTH ATLANTIC

June 17-19 is the time when Region 2 will host Region 1 for a weekend of fun and fellowship in the Washington, D.C., area, culminating with Gay Pride Day on June 19.

There will be sightseeing, worship, three birthdays to celebrate, and as much else as can be packed into the weekend hours!

Activities will begin Friday evening, when Region 2 people will gather to welcome their incoming guests from Region 1.

For information about what will happen when, call Kinship - Washington at (301) 445-3865.

July 15-17 we are planning a camping trip to the shore. Watch for more details.

June 25th Dennis is inviting us all to a party at his and Garry's new apartment. Call (703) 425-7550 or (301) 445-3865

On May 14, Region 2 members were glad to welcome three local members who hadn't attended for a while, and, Alan Hoston, from South Lancaster, Mass. There was time for singing, a devotional, dinner with a birthday cake for Garry, business, and then watching Victor, Victoria together. The fellowship was warm, with lots of laughter. The members laid plans for distributing information cards about SDA Kinship to local bookstores and bars frequented by gays.

REGION 4--GREAT LAKES

At the moment, we have no plans for further meetings until after camp-meeting. See you in Pottstown, PA!

REGION 5--GREAT PLAINS

A meeting is planned in Houston for June 18. Our members in Houston are interested in forming Region 5's first chapter. For details contact Brian at (713) 699-9312.

REGION 6--ROCKY MOUNTAIN

What's it like to make a new friend? Well, the members of Region 6 found out on May 21 when Gordon came to his first Kinship meeting. Gordon re-cently moved to Denver, from Calif., and we are all excited about having him in Region 6.

Besides a delicious pizza dinner and strawberry pie dessert, we discussed several Kinship issues and made plans to distribute Kinship information cards at gay establishments around Denver.

Keep watching for information about some of the exciting things Region 6 has in store.

Our next meeting will be Friday, June 10. Contact Lee at (303) 322-4568.

We continue to need and appreciate your help in getting the newsletter sent out each month. The next assembly day will be June 30. Check with Emy Lou or Vicki at (303) 781-6230 for time.

REGION 7--PACIFIC NORTHWEST

In April we went to Seattle for a joint meeting. We now have about 16 or 17 members.

On May 1st we had a pizza feed and a short meeting.

On June 12 at 1:00 p.m. we will have a potluck and follow-up meeting at Dusty and Jesse's home. For more information, contact Dusty at (206) 695-2281.

REGION 8--CENTRAL PACIFIC

On April 27, President Bob Bouchard was greeted by an excellent turnout of members who traveled distances as far away as Fresno and Redding. We enjoyed great conversation and food in spite of another heavy rainstorm. Thank you, everyone, for all the extra effort, time, money, and food that made this a special afternoon and evening! We tried to reach everyone by phone, and feel sorry we missed some of you.

On June 11 we will have our regular monthly potluck, meeting, devotional, and Dust to Diamonds session at Virginia's from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. The social hours will be from 6:00 p.m. to ?. Come prepared for Uno, Scrabble, pool, movies and swimming. Bring bathing suits and towels if you want to dive into the pool, spa sit, or play water volleyball. Virginia's address is 5419 Raimer Way, Charmichael, CA 95608.

Our dinner this month will be on June 25. We will dine at our very own Zelda's Original Gourmet Pizza, 1415 21st Street, Sacramento, CA. Dinner reservations have been made for 7:00 p.m. Eating will be preceded by a social hour at Ira's from 6:00 - 7:00. Ira's address is 1905 21st Street, #7, Sacramento, CA. RSVP to Ira or Virginia as soon as possible.

Region 8's PR team will be blitzing this area soon. Call if you would

From **UPDATES**, p. 15

like to help. One project will be completed by the middle of June.

Put these phone numbers in your special books for local Sacramento numbers. Virginia (new number) (916) 485-1694. Ira (916) 455-8940. Other Kinship number is (916) 488-8488.

We saw an ant today. Get your picnic baskets ready!

REGION 9--PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

June 4-5 we are planning to go backpacking in the San Bernardino mountains.

June 11 Region 9 will participate in the festivities of San Diego's "Lambda Pride" gay pride week. We will be raising funds for Promises by selling ice cream and popcorn.

June 25-26 we will again be involved with this years celebration at Christopher Street West in L.A. This year in addition to an informational booth, we will be selling ice cream and popcorn to raise funds for our Region. Celebrate being a gay man or woman! Feel the Pride and join us! For details contact Dennis at (714) 884-5534 or Bernie at (714) 883-0805.

As June approaches and we look back on April and May, we recall a beautiful spring. Promises is continuing to be active. Their debut performance was for the Indio, CA, SDA congregation on April 16. That same weekend nearly 25 people arrived to stay at Ben's place in the desert. All had a wonderful time of fellowship. Some attendees were at a Kinship meeting for the first time. That afternoon some went swimming while others went to see the desert botanical gardens. That evening, some saw Sophie's Choice at a local theatre.

Also in April, Region 9 hosted the National Kinship Board Meeting which was held at Richard's place in Rancho Cucamonga. We all want to thank Richard for his usual warm hospitality.

As for May, Promises once again was able to perform, this time for a Loma Linda Sabbath School program.

Kinship Calendar

JUNE 1983

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2	3	4 R 9 Backpacking
5	6 Have a happy day, Doug Kandoll HOLIDAY (Republic of Ireland)	7	8	9 We wish the very best to Dan Brown	10 R 6 at Lee's	R 8 at Virginia's R 9 to San Diego
12 R 7 at Dusty's	13 Happy Birthday Stephen & Myke Special wishes to Lou Layton	14 Happy Birthday and love to Jan Anderson & David MacArthur	15 Happy, Happy Birthday to James Mejeur	16 **Send TYPEWRITTEN Copy**	17 Arnold Albertson's Birthday. Have a happy!	R 5 meet in Houston R 1&2 in DC
19 GAY PRIDE DAY FATHER'S DAY	20 **Copy Deadline! TYPEWRITTEN Please!**	21 Happy Birthday and love to Larry Furr FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	22	23	24	R 8 dine at Zelda's R 9 at Christopher St. West
26 Karen of Seattle & Gary Stebbeds You are special	27	28 **Kinship Connection** To Press!	29 We wish the best to Kathryn Keating	30 Denver Crew--Newsletter Assembly Day		